(d) to (f) A Consortium comprising of M/s. Mitsui, Japan as principal contractor and Kawasaki/Hitachi Zosen of Japan and M/s. Simplex Engineering & Foundry Works Ltd. as the associates had quoted for only one package i.e. Sinter Machine package. Subsequently, during the techno-commercial discussions, M/s. Mitsui informed SAIL that HEC and Siemens India will be their other Indian associates for the package. However, before signing of the contract, the principal contractor i.e., M/s. Mitsui did not include HEC as an associate and informed SAIL/BSP that HEC would not be a signatory to the contract. The selection of associates by the prime bidder/principal contractor is left to the judgement of the prime bidder/principal contractor, subject to the acceptance of the same by SAIL. Since the prime bidder/principal contractor is responsible for the performance guarantees and timely completion, it is therefore the prerogative of the prime bidder/Principal contractor to choose suitable associates.

Scheme to Impart Training to Labourers by Directorate of Employment and Training

2766. SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate of Employment & Training has formulated any scheme to impart the training to the labourers in the training institutions;

(b) if so, the number of labourers trained in these institutions during the last six months;

(c) whether substantial stipend is given during the training period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) has been selected as one of the nodal agencies for implementing the scheme for retraining of rationalised industrial workers under the National Renewal Fund.

(b) About 5100 ratiolanised workers have been retrained in training institutions under the purview of DGE&T during the last six months.

(c) and (d) Stipend @ Rs. 40/- per day is paid to the trainees for the duration of the training courses.

Foreign Capital in SSI

2767. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he told the industrialists on June, 25, 1996 that Government would welcome foreign capital even in small scale industry and consumer goods industry;

(b) whether this is the policy of Government; and

(c) whether it does not go counter to the Government's Common Minimum Programme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Industry Minister while addressing a Seminar organised by FICCI on 25.6.96, did not make any policy statement. However, while addressing the gathering, the Industry Minister had stated that massive capital investment and modern technology would be required for higher growth and the entire requirement of capital investment cannot be met from the domestic savings alone. The foreign direct investment is also needed to bridge the gap between the domestic savings and the capital requirement.

No specific mention was made to the effect that foreign capital would be welcome in the small scale industry and consumer goods industry. He simply stated *inter-alia* that the Government was seized of some of the issues and foreign investment proposals would be examined from time to time based on a set of criteria. The statements made by the Minister were in consonance with the

spirit of the "Common Minimum Programme" of the United Front.

खनन क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए राज्य सरकारों को आवंटन

2768. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक राज्य सरकार को खनन क्षेत्र में विकास कार्यक्रमों को लागू करने के लिए कुल कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई है;

(ख) राज्य-वार किन-किन क्षेत्रों में नई खानों की पहचान की गई है; और

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक राज्य सरकार द्वारा खनन विकास क्षेत्र में विकास कार्यक्रमों के लिए कुल कितनी धनराशि वास्तव में खर्च की गई?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Expansion of Visakhapantnam Steel Plant

2769. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to expand the existing capacity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES, (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) has proposed to take up the following new projects:

(i) Expansion of VSP from 3 MT stage to 4.05 MT stage of Liquid Steel produciton at an estimated cost of Rs. 984 crores (base date of last quarter 1994-95)

(ii) Installation of facilities for Coal Dust Injuction and Oxygen enrichment for BF-I at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores.

(iii) Combined Blowing LD Converters at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores.

(iv) Installation of 5th 67.5 MW Turbo Generator for augmenting captive power generation at an estimated cost of Rs. 94 crores.

With a view to assess the likely availability of funds to finance the proposed expansion scheme the company engaged M/s. ICICI Securities & Finance Co. Ltd., (I-SEC) to provide its views on financing possibilities for the expansion and other new projects as listed above and suggest various sources for raising the funds. The report of I-SEC reveals that for funding the expansion and other new projects, it would be possible for the company to generate Rs. 800 crores internally, through implementation of the following:

(i) Grant of Interest Holiday as well as moratorium on repayment of GOI Loans instalments for a period of 5 years from 1994-95.

(ii) Rolling over of UTI instalments falling due during the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 totaling to Rs. 440 crores.

(iii) Roll over to the extent of Rs. 600 crores out of the interest free GOI loan of Rs. 791 crores falling due in 1999-2000.

The balance will, however, have to be met from commercial borrowings which may not be difficult for RINL to procure in view of the imporved financial position of the company.